

OUR PATH FORWARD
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2024

2024



*I wish to go to
Disney Aulani
Resort*

Payson, 5
cancer

Make-A-Wish®
ARIZONA

Together,

**WE CREATE LIFE-CHANGING WISHES
FOR CHILDREN WITH CRITICAL ILLNESSES.**

Letter from Make-A-Wish Arizona® President & CEO

At Make-A-Wish Arizona, we believe in the transformative power of a wish. What began more than four decades ago with one boy's wish has grown into a movement that continues to spark hope, strength, and joy for children facing critical illnesses—right here in the state where it all began, and across the world.

As President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Arizona, I am incredibly proud to share the impact of our collective efforts over the past fiscal year. In 2024, we achieved a historic milestone by **granting a record 462 wishes!** We also welcomed home an important piece of our history with the return of Chris Greicius's statue to the Wish House, honoring the boy whose wish inspired a movement.

This year, we also launched an exciting new initiative—the Champions program in partnership with Banner Health—to increase medical referrals and help us reach more eligible children across Arizona. As our referral pipeline grows, with more than 500 children currently waiting for their wishes, we are reminded of the urgent need to expand our reach and resources. Each of these children is waiting for a moment of hope—one we are committed to providing with your support.

With the continued support of our donors, volunteers, medical partners, and community advocates, we are working to ensure no eligible child waits too long for their life-changing wish. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Together, we are building a future where no wish goes ungranted.

Fran Mallace

Fran Mallace
President & CEO



462

WISHES GRANTED
FISCAL YEAR 2024

TYPES OF *WISHES*

When asked that one simple question, “*if you could have one wish, what would it be?*”, a child is able to dream and imagine their future. Wishes are limited only by a child’s imagination. While they typically fall into five categories, they all have one thing in common: *wishes can be game changers.*

*I wish to have
a playset*

Sebastian, 3
cancer



*I WISH TO
have...*

*I wish to have
a Pomeranian puppy*

Dylan, 10
heart condition



*I WISH TO
go...*



*I wish to go Disney
Aulani Resort*

Payson, 5
cancer

*I WISH TO
be...*



*I wish to be a Minnesota
United FC player*

Carter, 7
cystic fibrosis

*I WISH TO
give...*



*I wish to give football
helmets to my high
school*

Stephen, 17
brain tumor

*I WISH TO
meet...*



*I wish to meet
Cole's Color*

Kori, 7
cancer



Welcome Home, Chris

Make-A-Wish Arizona welcomed the return of the beloved Chris Greicius statue to its new home at the Parsons Wish House in Scottsdale, Arizona. To commemorate this occasion, Make-A-Wish Arizona hosted a statue unveiling ceremony.

Linda Pauling, Chris Greicius' mother and Make-A-Wish Co-Founder, welcomed the statue back. The original sculptor, Tom White, created the replacement statue, ensuring that Chris' memory lives on.

In January 2023, the statue honoring Chris Greicius, the 7-year-old boy whose battle with leukemia inspired the establishment of Make-A-Wish Arizona, was tragically stolen from outside the Make-A-Wish America headquarters.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris home to Make-A-Wish. The statue's return restores a piece of our history and serves as a powerful reminder of our mission," said Fran Mallace, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Arizona. "This celebration is not just about the statue's return but also the lasting impact Chris' legacy has had on wish children and their families over the last 44 years."

This celebration marked the culmination of World Wish Month, a month-long tribute inspired by World Wish Day on April 29, which holds special meaning for Make-A-Wish, as it marks the day Chris Greicius had his wish granted to become an DPS officer for a day.

Chris' remarkable story inspired six individuals to establish the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which has since grown to encompass 57 chapters nationwide, along with 40 international affiliates dedicated to the mission of granting wishes for children with critical illnesses.

★ *The statue's return coincided with another significant milestone for Make-A-Wish Arizona: the 8000th wish granted since its founding in 1980.*

Wish Impact

Wishes By Region

Northern	9%	●
Central	73%	●
Southern	15%	●

**Numbers are rounded and do not total 100%*

Wishes By Age

2.5 - 5 years	71
6 - 8 years	93
9 - 11 years	92
12 - 14 years	79
15 - 17 years	78
18+ years	49

Wishes By Language

Make-A-Wish Arizona supports all cultures and languages in our state. Families who identify their preferred language advance our inclusivity initiatives.

Wishes By Type



I wish to go...
297



I wish to meet...
23



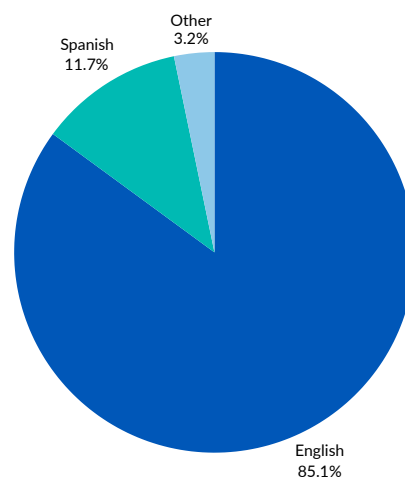
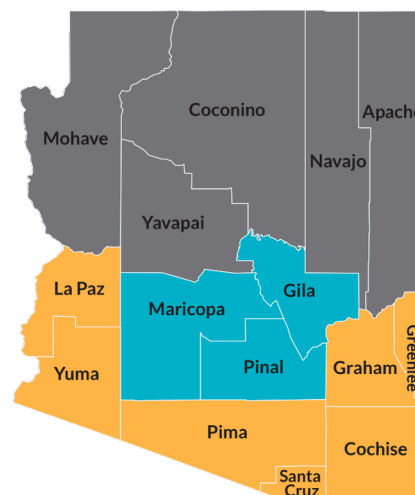
I wish to have...
137



I wish to be...
1



I wish to give...
1



Financials

Make-A-Wish® Arizona Foundation, Inc.

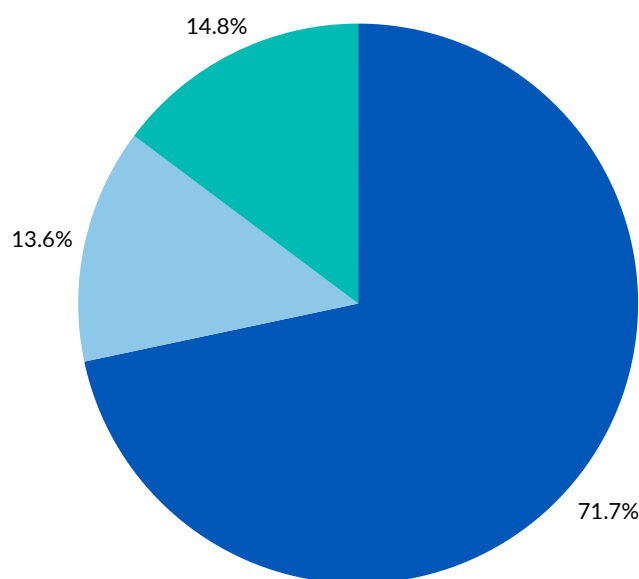
EIN 86-0409636

Year ended August 31, 2024

Total Revenue	\$11,757,117
Total Expenses	\$12,722,708
Total Net Assets	\$11,860,279
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,259,202

Operating Expenses*

Program Services	\$9,118,702 (71.7%)	●
Fundraising	\$1,724,899 (13.6%)	●
Management and General	\$1,879,107 (14.8%)	●



*Copies of our audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2024, are available on our website at wish.org/arizona/our-chapter



I wish to hug a penguin

Omar, 12
circulatory disorder



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Phoenix Suns Phoenix Mercury

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Lockton Companies

Nancy Zezza

Alliance Bank of Arizona



“A wish is unlike
anything else you can
give a child. It gives
them opportunity to
live and to be free.”

ANUP PATEL, MD
PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL





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